

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MAIL PROCESSING NETWORK RATIONALIZATION
SERVICE CHANGES, 2011

Docket No. N2012-1

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS ELMORE-YALCH TO
PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST No. 6, QUESTION 7**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Elmore-Yalch to Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 6 (POIR6), Question 7, dated March 12, 2012. The question is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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Question 7.

Please refer to USPS-N2012-1/NP1. The files “First-Class Mail_LargeCommercial_Final_DataFile_USPS-N2012-1.NP1.sav”, “First-Class Mail_SmallHome_Final_DataFile_USPS-N2012-1.NP1.sav”, and “First-Class Mail_Consumers_Final_DataFile_USPS-N2012-1.NP1.sav” contain observations that were not used in volume calculations due to missing data. Please provide a dataset which contains only those observations which were used in calculating the volume impact forecasts presented on pages 50-52 of USPS-T-11. For each observation, please include all associated sample weights and observation identifiers in addition to the following data:

- a. From the Large Business Survey: Q1_2012A, Q1_2012B, Q1_2012C, Q1_2012D, Q1_2012DD, Q1_2012E, Q1_2012F, Q1_2012_G, Q2A_2012, Q2B_2012, Q2C_2012, Q2D_2012, Q2DD_2012, Q2E_2012, Q2F_2012, Q2G_2012, Q3, Q4, Q5A, Q5B, Q6A, Q6B, Q7A, Q7B, Q8A, Q8B, Q8C, Q8D, Q9A, Q9B, Q10A, Q10B, Q11A, Q11B, Q12BILLS, Q12PAYMENTS, Q12ADVERTISING, Q12COMMUNICATIONS, Q12DOCUMENTS, Q12MAGAZINES, Q12NEWSPAPERS, Q12NEWSLETTERS
- b. From the Small/Home Business Survey: Q1_2012A, Q1_2012B, Q1_2012C, Q1_2012D, Q1_2012DD, Q1_2012_G, Q2A_2012, Q2B_2012, Q2C_2012, Q2D_2012, Q2DD_2012, Q2E_2012, Q2F_2012, Q2G_2012, Q3, Q4, Q5A, Q5B, Q6A, Q6B, Q7A, Q7B, Q8A, Q8B, Q8C, Q8D, Q11A, Q11B, Q12BILLS, Q12PAYMENTS, Q12ADVERTISING, Q12COMMUNICATIONS, Q12DOCUMENTS, Q12NEWSLETTERS
- c. From the Consumer Survey: U1A_2012, U1B_2012, U2A_2012, U2B_2012, U3A_2012, U3B_2012, U5A, U5B, U6A, U6B, U6C, U7A, U7B, U7C, U8A, U8B, U8C

RESPONSE:

The question suggests that the three *.sav files provided contain observations not used in the volume calculations due to missing data. As explained in response to other questions on the dataset (POIR 4, Question 10; POIR 6, Questions 4-6), data only appear to be missing when the research design is not fully understood. Data collected specific to each application are used to calculate volume changes responsive to changes in First-Class Mail service standards.

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For example, in the business data files (Mail_LargeCommercial_Final_DataFile_USPS-N2012-1.NP1.sav" and "First-Class Mail_SmallHome_Final_DataFile_USPS-N2012-1.NP1.sav"), the following illustrates which variables in the files provided were used to compute the estimates of First-Class Mail volume in 2012.

IF (Q1A_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1A_2012)) BILL_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1A_2012 *
(Q2A_2012_02 / 100).

IF (Q1B_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1B_2012)) PMT_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1B_2012 *
(Q2B_2012_02 / 100).

IF (Q1C_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1C_2012)) ADM_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1C_2012 *
(Q2C_2012_02 / 100).

IF (Q1D_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1D_2012)) COMM_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1D_2012 *
(Q2D_2012_02 / 100).

IF (Q1DD_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1DD_2012)) DOC_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1DD_2012 *
(Q2DD_2012_02 / 100).

IF (Q1G_2012 ~= -1 and not missing (Q1G_2012)) NWSL_FCM_Base_2012 = Q1G_2012 *
(Q2G_2012_02 / 100).

The values for all variables contained in the files listed above comprise all the data needed to compute the volume impact forecasts presented on pages 50-52 of USPS-T-11, including respondent-specific identifiers and associated weights. The subsets of variables listed in parts (a) through (c) are limited to those needed to calculate total volume of mail for each application; however, the lists also exclude the variables necessary to compute the distribution of volume across the applicable Postal Service products. As such, the lists of variables do not contain all variables used to calculate the volume impact forecasts presented on pages 50-52 of USPS-T-11.

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Finally, the files provided already contain the sample weights required for analysis (SizeWeight_SmallBusiness for the small business sample and WT_FINAL for the consumer sample). Each file also contains a respondent (observation) identifier which is a serial number that is distinct to each individual respondent. This identifier does not contain anything that can be used (by anyone outside ORC) to link the respondent's data to anything that identifies the individual or corporate identity.